

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 21, 2015**  
**7:00 P.M.**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Richard Scott-Harper  
David Connors, Vice Chairman  
Robert Hittinger  
Michael Pickel  
Robert Weer

**STAFF/OTHER PRESENT:**

Steven Brown, Township Manager  
Approximately 70 audience members

Mr. Scott Harper began the meeting at 7 p.m., which took place in the Fred S. Engle Middle School cafeteria. He provided an introduction and reviewed the purpose of the meeting. He explained that the Board had joined a process to study a regional police department last year and the Township's representative, Michael Pickel, has met with the working group a few times. The Supervisors have also met with Chief Simpson from New Garden Township and Lieutenant D'Ambrosio from the Avondale State Police barracks. He went on to explain that the cost estimates for the first year ranged from \$800,000 to \$ 1 million. Mr. Scott Harper (or was it Mike?) explained that the matter was not put on the spring primary ballot as a question because a resident had to do so but none did. He also said the Board wanted input and comments from the public to help decide what to do.

Mr. Scott Harper then opened the meeting to questions and comments from the public. The following questions were asked and comments made:

1. The State Police provide a prompt response (two comments).
2. What is the benefit to the Township?
3. Did the Township seek the opinion of the State Police?
4. It is difficult to come to a conclusion as a resident without hearing from the State Police.
5. It is appreciated that the Board is looking into this and discussing it with the public; however, the community does not have much crime (two comments).
6. There are only minor benefits of a regional police department, e.g. parking enforcement, which are not worth the cost.
7. What will the Township's population be in the future?
8. The need is not there and we are lucky to have the State Police barracks located in the Township.
9. The State Police have grown as a force as the Township and southern Chester County have.

10. The Township has spent money to add infrastructure and make it a viable community; spending money on a regional police department would detract from that effort.
11. The Township has no control over the State budget and the impact of it on the State Police.
12. Would the State Police be excluded from the Township if a regional force were created?
13. A full-fledged police department is not needed as we have been talking about nuisance crimes and not major crime. However a degree of policing is necessary; possibly some sort of "community" policing or neighborhood watch?
14. The quality of life is what determines the need not a certain population figure. A regional force would not be a benefit to London Grove Township, especially in light of the cost.
15. What does the Board see as the need for police or code enforcement?
16. The other communities in the group already have police departments and a different perspective; they are not a good "match" for London Grove.
17. Could the Township contract for police services?
18. It is hard to manage police departments.
19. What are the crime statistics in the Township? Are people experiencing problems? If the numbers are high and there are problems, maybe the idea should be explored in earnest.
20. Has the Township spoken to the other communities involved in the regional department study?
21. Would New Garden Township's and/or Kennett Square's cost go down?
22. Is neighborhood watch a viable option?

Mr. Scott Harper asked for a show of hands. The vast majority of the audience raised their hands against the regional police force.

The meeting ended at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven C. Brown  
Township Manager